

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 8, 2017**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, G. Pohorely, S. Marr, S. McDonald
Absent:

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the “Open Public Meetings Act” read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Monday, May 8, 2017. A Motion was made by G. Pohorely and seconded by S. McDonald that the minutes be approved for the meeting of April 10, 2017.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tree City USA Bulletin #22: Foundation for Better Tree Management - This information will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. CSIP Grant - There is additional material that is needed for the next stage of the grant. The selection of trees and planting locations should be supported by a tree specialist. K. Halpin recommended Jeremy Summit, a local tree expert and former Shade Tree Commissioner. She will contact Mr. Summit about attending the next Shade Tree meeting. The grant also requires landscape drawings of the planting sites. S. Marr suggested that photographs of the locations would be quicker and a suitable alternative for this requirement. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to arrange a special meeting on May 22 to submit the necessary plans for the CSIP grant.
2. 17 Lambert Street- The owners have not responded to the Shade Tree Commission’s written requests to clarify the treatment that destroyed two trees in the right-of-way area. There is also concern that the chemicals may still be contaminating the soil on the owner’s property. At this point, the Commission agreed that a 2nd certified letter be sent to the owners stating that the Borough’s Code Enforcement Officer will be notified. The letter requests that’s the owners attend the June 12th Shade Tree meeting to discuss the environmental concerns as well as the unsuitable replacement trees. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Washington Borough Code Enforcement Officer, Matthew Lopez.
3. 113 Belvidere Avenue - Property owner, Christopher Cannavo attended the May 8th meeting. Mr. Cannavo expressed his regrets that the tree he replaced was not within the

right-of-way location. He notified the Commission prior to planting the Cherry tree but the location is not within the designated space to be considered a town tree. Mr. Cannavo offered to pay restitution for this oversight. However, the Commission stated that the Cannavos need to take full responsibility of the any future maintenance of the Cherry tree. The inventory will be amended to reflect an empty space at this address. Mr. Cannavo also has a large Maple tree in the right-of-way area and would like to have it trimmed at his own expense. K. Halpin instructed him to submit a written request which should include the required professional tree service that will do the maintenance work. There will be no further action taken at this time.

4. Tree Maintenance Quotes- The Commission reviewed the maintenance quotes regarding various locations throughout the town. The one quote that was incomplete for the maintenance along West Warren Street submitted an amended one for review. The Commission was still unable to decide on the vendor due to a few inconsistencies over the maintenance proposals. The quotes will be reviewed again at the June 12th meeting.
5. Arbor Day Review - S. Marr updated the Commission regarding the Arbor Day Acknowledgement on April 24th. Mayor, David Higgins read the Arbor Day Proclamation and “Johnny Appleseed”. Registered Dietitian, Carly Sopko talked briefly about sustainable things in the environment. She also provided apples for each student. The Taylor Street School Music Teacher led the students in some songs about trees. S. Marr also engaged the students in a question and answer period and provided each kindergarten child with a White Pine seedling with planting instructions.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 116 East Washington Ave. - A pedestrian tripped on a raised sidewalk in front of the United Methodist Church. The church’s spokesperson inquired about resolving this hazardous issue. K. Halpin discussed the concern with the Borough Manager, Matthew Hall. The immediate solution will be to have the property owners cement the sidewalk at a gradual slope to eliminate the uneven surface. The Mr. Hall noted that the DPW will offer assistance to the owners if they request it.
2. 68 Carlton Ave.- A concerned citizen reported fallen branches from a tree located near the entrance of the Washington Borough Middle School. K. Halpin visited the location and determined that it is not a town tree. The property owner is responsible for any maintenance of the tree. No further action is needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. McDonald and seconded by G. Pohorely that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming